(d) The allocations of imported palmolein to States/UTs from the Central Pool during February-October, 1996 have been suitably restricted so as to keep within the permitted limit of total import of 2.00 lakh MTs. Accordingly the allocations to the major palmolein consuming States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have been reduced vis-a-vis the demand received from them. Central Government is making available the allocated quantity of imported palmolein from the storage point of STC/HVOC to the nominees of the respective States/UTs. The responsibility for further movement/distribution of the edible oil rests with the State Government/UT Administrations.

Export of Marine Products from Andhra Pradesh

870. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports of marine products have declined from Andhra Pradesh in 1995-96;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether MPEDA has not given sufficient emphasis to marine exports from Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the reasons and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The exports of marine products from Andhra Pradesh have declined in terms of value in year 1995-96. The decline is attributed to recurrence of disease in some of the shrimp farming areas, forcing the farmers to harvest under sized shrimp. Besides this the sluggish economic condition prevailing in Japan, a major market for shrimps, was also a factor contributing to the decline.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Comprehensive Central Legislation for Agricultural Workers

871. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether draft comprehensive central legislation for agricultural workers has been prepared;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHIR M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal seeks to provide for regulation of employment and conditions of service of agricultural workers and to provide for their welfare.

(c) The proposal is at an advanced stage of consideration and the necessary Bill will be introduced in the Parliament as soon as possible.

सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली द्वारा वितरण हेतु चीनी की प्राप्ति

872. **श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी**: क्या **खाद्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) चालू अवधि में लेवी प्रणाली के अधीन सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के माध्यम से वितरण हेतु प्राप्त की गयी चीनी की मात्रा कितनी है;

(ख) घरेलू उत्पादन से सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए चीनी की उपलब्धता को सुनिश्चित करने के लिये क्या-क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं; और

(ग) आशापूर्ण घरेलू उत्पादन आंकड़ों के बावजूद राज्य व्यापार निगम (एम०टी०सी०) और खनिज तथा धातु व्यापार निगम (एम०एम०टी०सी०) द्वारा चीनी का आयात किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं?

खाद्य मंत्री (श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव): (क) और (ख) 1995-96 में लगभग 68 लाख टन लेवी